CLAIMS

[00015] What I claim as my invention is:

1. A fireplace tool used to lift and/or re-position logs in a fireplace, having a hand grip on one end, a connecting rod in the middle, and on the other end an open-jawed mouth that grips a log using friction created by the spring effect of the open-jawed mouth and friction ridges around the inner perimeter of the mouth.
2. A fireplace tool as set forth in claim 1, having:
   a) an open-jawed mouth formed at an angle (e.g., 22 degrees in a working prototype construction of the invention) that may vary depending on the cross sectional shape and dimensions of the bar or rod from which the mouth is made, the mouth material, and the desired size of the mouth;
   b) a series of small ridges spaced at close intervals (e.g., approximately ¼ inch on the prototype) around the inner perimeter of the mouth;
   c) a wedge tip on the side of the mouth opposite the connecting rod, which extends approximately 2 inches beyond the other side of the mouth.
3. A fireplace tool as set forth in claims 1 and 2, comprising
   a) a single rod or bar bent to form a hand grip on one end, and a open-jawed mouth on the other end, with a length of connecting rod or bar between the ends (see Figure 1);
   b) a rod or bar formed from a single piece of steel or other material having similar elastic properties and the ability to withstand the heat of a fire;
   c) a single bend in the rod or bar to form a hand grip at one end;
   d) a double bend in the rod or bar to form an open-jawed mouth and a wedge tip at the end opposite the hand grip.
4. A fireplace tool as set forth in claims 1 and 2, comprising
   a) a hand grip on one end, which may be formed from a bend in the rod or bar as set forth in claim 3 or made from a variety of materials, including but not limited to wood, brass, or steel, and which may take a variety of shapes (e.g., see Figures 6 through 8), attached to the connecting rod

either permanently (e.g., via welding) or in a manner to allow disassembling (e.g., via a coupling);

b) a connecting rod or bar made from a single piece of steel or other material having similar elastic properties and the ability to withstand the heat of a fire;

c) a rod or bar made from a single piece of steel or other material having similar elastic properties and the ability to withstand the heat of a fire, bent to form the open-jawed mouth and wedge tip of the tool, and attached to the connecting rod in a manner to withstand the heat of a fire, e.g., by welding (e.g., see Figure 4);

5. A fireplace tool as set forth in claims 1 and 2, comprising:

a) a hand grip on one end as set forth in claim 4;

b) a rod or bar made from a single piece of steel or other material having similar elastic properties and the ability to withstand the heat of a fire, with one end having a hand grip as set forth in claim 4 and the other end having a series of closely spaced small ridges on one side so that this end of the rod or bar serves as one side of the tool's open-jawed mouth (e.g., see Figure 3);

c) a rod or bar made from a single piece of steel or other material having similar elastic properties and the ability to withstand the heat of a fire, attached to the rod described in 5.b) at an angle to form the other side of the tool's open-jawed mouth and its wedge tip, the manner of attachment being able to withstand the heat of a fire, e.g., by welding (e.g., see Figure 3);

6. A fireplace tool as set forth in claims 1 and 2, comprising three components:

a) a hand grip which may be made of the same materials as the connecting rod and the open-jawed mouth, and may be formed from the same single rod, but is not limited to those materials or method of construction (e.g., see Figure 6 through 8), attached to the connecting rod either permanently (e.g., via welding) or in a manner to allow disassembling (e.g., via a coupling);

b) a connecting rod which may be made of the same materials as the hand grip and the open-jawed mouth, and may be formed from the same single rod, but is not limited to those materials or method of construction, attached to the open-jawed mouth in a manner to withstand the heat of a fire, e.g., by welding or by a coupling (e.g., see Figure 5) made of material with properties similar to those of the open-jawed mouth;

c) an open-jawed mouth which may be made of the same materials as the hand grip and the connecting rod, and may be formed from the same single rod, but is not limited to those materials or method of construction (e.g., see Figures 2 through 5).